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URBAN DISTRICT OF
SIDMOUTH

S. DEVON.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

1912



SIDMOUTH:
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Urban District Council.

Sidmouth,

19.....

W. H. PEILE, M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

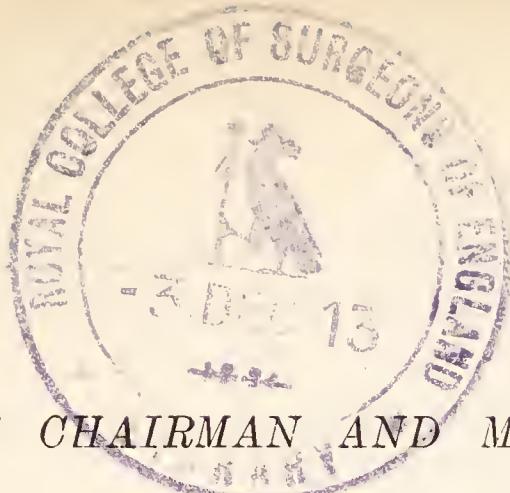
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

At last I am able to lay before you my Report for 1912. I greatly regret the delay which, as you know, was due to my long illness.

I wish to thank you, Gentlemen, for the kindness and generosity with which you have treated me.

My thanks are also due to Dr. A. C. Bird, Deputy Medical Officer of Health; Mr. P. H. Michelmore; Mr. R. Lake, Surveyor; Mr. Whitford, Sanitary Inspector; Mr. H. B. Howard, Assistant Overseer; A. Macindoe, Esq., M.D., Miss C. M. Radford, and others, for their help and advice.

As many important matters relating to the Public Health were discussed, and a considerable amount of new work done in your district during the year, I have made my Report in detail.

Tusting it will meet with your approval,

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. H. PEILE.

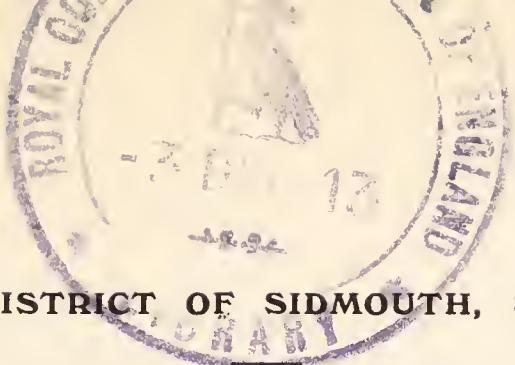
Sidmouth,

Oct. 31st, 1913.

INDEX OF SUBJECTS.

	PAGE
Adoptive Acts ...	26
Analysis of Water. Appendix II. ...	35
Automatic Flushing Tanks ...	7
Bacteriology ...	26
Bakehouses ...	17
Birth-rate. ...	32
Bye-Laws ...	14
Cancer ...	31
Climate ...	5
Closet Accommodation ...	10
Consumption ...	...28—30
Cowsheds ...	15—16
Damp-proof Course...	21
Death, Causes of and Ages at. Table III.	37
Death-rate ...	32
Earth Closets ...	10
Erysipelas ...	26
Factories and Workshops ...	25
Geology ...	5
Heart Disease, Organic ...	31
Houses, Defects found in ...	24
Housing and Town-Planning Act ...	22
Housing Regulations, Tabular Statement under...	23
Housing ...	... 18—24
Infant Mortality ...	31
Infectious Diseases ...	26
Inspections of District ...	12
Isolation Hospital ...	27
Lavatories, Public ...	33
Local Government Board Enquiry ...	8
Manure ...	10
Meteorology. Appendix I. ...	34
Milk Supply ...	15
Mortality Comparative ...	32
Nuisances ...	13
Overcrowding ...	19—20
Population, Estimated, 1912 ...	6
Progress, Sanitary, 1912 ...	32
Public Lavatories ...	33
Refuse Heap...	10
Sanitary Administration ...	25
Sanitary Inspector, Work of ...	13
Scarlet Fever ...	26
Scavenging ...	10
Schools ...	14
Sewerage ...	7—9
Slaughter-houses ...	18
Soil Pipes inside Houses ...	21
Stables, New ...	21
Steam Disinfecter ...	27
Storage Tank ...	... 8—9
Suggestions for the Future ...	32
Vital Statistics. Table I. ...	... 31, 36
Water Analysed ...	26
Water Supply ...	... 6
Wells ...	7





URBAN DISTRICT OF SIDMOUTH, S. DEVON.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
1912.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Sidmouth Urban District is a triangular valley 1606 acres in extent. The base of the triangle, on which the town is situated, is formed by the coast line, and the sides are defined by Peak and Bulverton Hills on the west, and Salcombe Hill and the river Sid on the east. The apex of the triangle is on the western slope of Core Hill, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland, and to the north. The district thus enjoys a full south aspect and shelter from north and east winds.

The soil generally is red marl with red sandstone strata; the hills are capped by cretaceous strata (chalk and flints) between which and the marl are extensive beds of the upper greensand (see Water Supply), and along the present and ancient beds of the River there are deposits of gravel and alluvium.

The district is residential and agricultural, about one fifth of its area being taken up by houses, gardens and grounds, and the remainder cultivated or used as grazing land.

The climate is soft, but the mean humidity 83. is not excessive, and is less than that of some neighbouring health resorts; the prevailing wind is S.W. Bright sunshine, especially in the winter months is in excess of the average for the S.W. coast. The average rainfall for the last twenty years is 30.53 inches.

The meteorological records for the year, compiled by Miss C. M. Radford, will be found in Appendix I.

The population is mainly employed in the various trades, businesses, and activities required to meet the demands of visitors. The seafaring population carries on an inshore fishing and in the summer months do a considerable trade in pleasure boating and bathing. Quite 250 Sidmouth men hold various ratings in the Royal Navy.

Agriculture and dairy-farming find employment for about 150 men, and other industries are brewing, brick-making and building, iron-founding and lace-making.

POPULATION. The population at the census of 1911 was 5612, including 78 men on a ship in the Bay. A more accurate return therefore was 5534. Of these 3300 were females, and 2234 males.

The estimated population on June 30th, 1912, was 5728. In the summer months, July and August, the influx of visitors brings the population up to 7000.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY. Last year I reported on the Sidmouth Water Company's Works, on Peak Hill, and the sources of supply on Peak and Bulverton Hills. These continue to be highly satisfactory, and, should need arise, there are several good springs still unimpounded. These springs emerge at the junction of the greensand stratum with the underlying impervious marl. The water has percolated the cretaceous cap of the Hills and the subjacent greensand, and is of great purity, though after heavy rains, there is a slight turbidity from suspended silicates which the filters will not remove. This does not, however impair in any way its wholesomeness for drinking.

The Springs appear to be inexhaustible; during long periods of drought there is no shortage, and the town and district enjoy an uninterrupted service even when the population is much increased by visitors, and large quantities of water are being used on streets, gardens and lawns.

In this respect Sidmouth is much better served than are some neighbouring health resorts, whose water service is restricted to five or six hours per diem during periods of drought.

Water is also conveyed to the Company's reservoirs from springs at Pinn Hill, beyond Sidbury. Here too the water is impounded in brick chambers, which prevent any chance of contamination at the source, and passes through an iron main to the Woolbrook Water works. This supplementary water supply, which is by no means fully exploited, will be of the greatest value in the event of the town growing largely, or in the case of another very dry summer like last.



The water is pure and soft and free from the peaty acids which conduce to lead poisoning. An analysis will be found in Appendix II.

The supply is constant and is laid on to 1138 houses, out of 1301 in the district.

WELLS. Seven surface wells have been closed as a source of drinking water and the town Water Supply in six cases, and spring water in one case, has been laid on to take their place. All these wells were liable to pollution, and an analysis of the water from one of them was very unsatisfactory.

The river Sid and the Woolbrook are the principal streams in the district; the mouth of the former when blocked by shingle is apt to become unpleasant from debris and refuse cast into the stream higher up. The practice of using the river as a refuse heap is however not so prevalent as it was two years ago.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The sewers were frequently overtaxed during the wet summer, and flooding occurred in Temple Street, and in the lower parts of the town, behind the Esplanade on several occasions, and notably on July 31st.

A serious blockage of the All Saints road sewer occurred on May 31st. The traps of several house-drains were forced, and the drains flooded up to the manhole covers. I investigated the cause with the Surveyor and found that the sewer between All Saints Villas and Audley Corner was defective, and the bore of the sewer full of tree-roots and soil. These were removed and the continuity of the sewer re-established. At the same time the automatic flush tank at Audley Corner was overhauled and put in working order, so as to discharge 1000 gallons twice in 24 hours. The sewer is, however, not satisfactory; the fall is insufficient, the manholes too far apart. The western portion of the sewer should be taken up and relaid during the winter, and additional manholes provided throughout the whole length of the section.

Of the six automatic flush tanks on the system, only three are in proper working order, viz.: the ones at Audley Corner, Veale's Corner and Bedford Square. When additional storm water sewers are laid down, the automatic flush tanks should all be made effective, if the sewers are to be kept clean and sweet in the summer.

The storm water sewer which discharges at the Bedford Steps is a source of nuisance and offence in the summer, after a period of drought. Road sweepings and horse dung which have collected in the sewer are washed down and lodge in the mouth of the sewer, or are discharged into the shingle, which becomes soaked with malodorous matter. The first water after a drought comes down very thick and stinking. Visitors notice this and come to the false conclusion that this is a foul sewer discharging at the centre of the Esplanade. This nuisance could be obviated by carrying the storm water sewer westward along the front to join the outfall of the goyle at Clifton Place; or more simply by covering the present outfall as far as low water mark.

On October 11th, a Local Government Board enquiry was held with regard to the flooding with rain water and sewage of the basements of certain premises situated on and behind the Esplanade. As stated in my report for 1911, under certain conditions of wind, tide and rain, the storage tank becomes full, the outfall is obstructed, and the main sewer becomes surcharged. Sewerage and storm water then force the traps and gullies, and flood the basements of certain premises along the line of the low-level sewer, and the roadway by Bedford Square, Marlbro' Cottages and the old Coast Guard Buildings. Trump's Café, which has been fitted with Cousen's anti-flooding ball-traps on the drains, has escaped flooding.

As a result of the enquiry, permission to obtain a loan of £195 was granted for the laying of a storm water sewer in Peasland Road and Brewery Lane, and to discharge into the River at Lawn Vista. The work is now in hand, and is a step in the right direction towards the prevention of storm flooding in the lower parts of the town; but to obviate the trouble altogether, a much more comprehensive system of storm water drainage, dealing with the slopes of the Knowle Hotel and Manor Grounds and of Winslade Road will be necessary.

I have arrived at the above conclusion from the study of the facts noted below:—

The storage tank has a capacity of 30723 cubic feet.

The outfall sewer is 24 inches in diameter, and has a fall of 1 in 300. It is capable therefore of discharging 850 cubic feet per minute.

From the above data the storage tank should, when the penstock is open and the tide low, theoretically empty itself in 36 minutes.

Actually, as I have proved from personal observation, the penstock may remain open for 3 days and nights, and yet at the end of that time the storage tank may be *full*: also the pressure of wind and tide on the outfall, even at $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours after high tide may be sufficient to prevent any appreciable fall of the level of the sewage in the tank in ten minutes,—the penstock being of course open!

Further,

The capacity of the storage tank is only 191404 gallons, and the daily normal dry weather flow of sewage is 180000 gallons.

Admitting therefore that the storage tank is emptied twice per 24 hours, it is obvious that there is very little accommodation therein for storm water.

It must be remembered also, that a considerable, though unknown volume of sewage and storm water from Salcombe Hill, reaches the tank, and that the leaky low level sewer also admits river and subsoil water into the tank.

This additional volume of fluid was never reckoned for by Mr. Mansergh, and no doubt conduces to the overfilling of the tank and stagnation in the main sewer leading to it.

The Sewerage System of 1897 is certainly not so efficient as its promoters hoped it would be, and now that some acres of new roofs and roads are draining into the foul sewers, the latter are not capable of dealing with extra volume thus running into them.

I would suggest the following remedies for the flooding nuisance.

The use of anti-flooding traps.

The systematic cleansing of the low level sewer to prevent silting up.

Lowering the weir of the old sewage outfall by 6 inches. This could be done experimentally; it

would relieve the main sewer in times of flood only, and if any nuisance resulted, the weir could be restored to its present level.

That additional storm water sewers be provided to drain the Knowle Hotel and Manor Grounds and the Winslade Road slopes.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. During the year two earth and ash closets have been replaced by water closets. Users of earth closets continue to be careless as to the proper emptying of buckets and supply of ashes or earth, and nuisances are constantly arising. There are about 100 earth closets in use in the district.

SCAVENGING AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE. There has been some improvement in this department. A new covered dust cart of a good pattern was acquired in the autumn. The scavengers still visit the more thickly populated parts of the town twice weekly. Three visits would not be too many.

I regret to say that household refuse is still exposed in uncovered receptacles in the streets, awaiting the carts. I think sanitary dustbins should be made compulsory, and the exposure of refuse on the pavements prohibited. I have placed large sanitary dustbins in Sander's Row and Ebdon's Row. Each of these has displaced six or more open buckets or boxes. The tenants appreciate this convenience, and have tried to keep the dustbins covered and to preserve them from unnecessary ill-usage.

Seven more sanitary manure receptacles have been built and have done something towards lessening the nuisance from this source. The improper storage and non-removal of manure in defiance of the bye-laws continues however to be a fruitful source of complaints to the sanitary department. As I observed last year, so long as manure is a marketable commodity horse-keepers will study their own interests and convenience rather than cleanliness and the public health. I know of instances where sick people have been unable to open their bedroom windows on account of the stench from adjacent manure heaps.

The refuse tip at Woolbrook is fuller and more unpleasant than ever. People living near it complain of the smoke and smell from burning paper and rags. Rats also harbour among the refuse heaps,

and on date of my inspection (May 18th) swarms of flies and bluebottles were feeding and breeding on the garbage.

Old bottles and tins are accumulating at an alarming rate. There is a scheme for getting rid of the latter by rolling them into the road to the new tip or burying them in the disused gravel pit in Ice House Lane. Paper, shavings, and other dry trade refuse from the larger shops is also difficult to dispose of.

These are often burnt or shot on the fore-shore at the east end of the esplanade thus giving rise to an unsightly nuisance.

The solution of the whole difficulty is a good fume-cremating destructor; at present we have the fumes and smoke from the above-mentioned paper and rags but no real destruction of refuse matter.

On Sept. 30th, 1908, a proposal to buy a refuse-destructor and a site for the same at a cost of £400, was carried by 5 votes to 3 at a meeting of the Council.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT. Routine inspection of the following premises were made at the usual times of year.

Nature of Premises, etc., Visited or Inspected.	No. of Inspections or Visits.	Defects and Nuisances Discovered.	No.	Action and Result.
Bake-houses (9)	18	Defective soil drain General dirtiness... and ill-repair Insanitary W.C. ... Unflushed W.C. ...	1 1 1 1	Remedied.
Cowsheds (13)	26	Defective paving ... and draining Omission to lime-wash at proper time	5 6	4 Rectified. Work done on notice to owner. One remains to be done.
Dairies and Milkshops (20)	40			
Slaughter-houses (7)	14	Defective paving ... and draining Absence of proper receptacles for offal Absence of inflator for skinning calves Keeping manure so as to be a nuisance Slaughtering pigs in open yard	2 3 2 7 1	Abated on notice to Occupiers.
Factories and Workshops	19			
Dwelling-houses	60	See statement under "Housing" infra.		
Homes of School absentees	29	Ringworm ... Pediculosis ... German Measles ... Impetigo Contagiosa Tonsilitis ... Mumps ... Unclassified.	2 4 3 3 1 2 12	Medical treatment advised and exclusion from School till well.
Homes of persons notified under Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations (1911)	146	See control and prevention of Tuberculosis. Infra.		
Unclassified ...	47			
TOTAL ...	379		57	

In addition to above routine inspections, frequent visits were paid to any premises where work was in hand, or where infectious or contagious disease existed.

During the year the work of your Sanitary Inspector included the following visits and inspections :—

	Nature of Defect or Nuisance Inspected.	No.
1.	Defective House Drains ...	85
2.	Unventilated Soil Pipes ...	28
3.	Defective or unflushed W.C.'s ...	47
4.	Other (minor) Sanitary defects ...	131
5.	Defective Soil Pipes ..	92
6.	Defective Ashpits ...	11
7.	Unpaved Yards ...	26
8.	Nuisance from Animals ...	15
9.	Accumulation of Rubbish and Manure...	29
10.	Unclassified ...	46
	Total ...	510

The above were in most cases abated on verbal notice; it was however necessary to serve the following written notices :—

Informal	...	... 167
Statutory	..	... 1
	Total ...	168

The number of tests made on house drains, new, defective or repaired, was :—

Smoke Tests	...	... 781
Hydraulic Tests	...	... 381
Optical Tests	...	... 6
	Total ...	1168

The latter is an excellent method of detecting faults in alignment and carelessly-made joints, and it should be more generally used.

Observation has also been kept upon buildings in course of erection for the purpose of ensuring that no sanitary details may be scamped, and that drains are not laid in unsuitable places. Thus, on one occasion I found "seconds" or damaged and faulty drain pipes being used to save cost, and I gave the builder the choice of pulling them all up again or embedding the whole run in six inches of concrete, so that the saving effected was not so great as he had hoped. I have also insisted on drains being laid along alley ways when they are always safe and accessible, instead of under back gardens where the pipes are in danger of being damaged by picks;

I have also seen the foundations of domestic buildings being laid direct on clay without any proper footings or concrete base, and reported the matter to the Surveyor.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.—There are Bye-Laws and Regulations relating to :—

1. New Streets and Buildings (1895)
2. Nuisances (1895)
3. Slaughter-Houses ... (1895)
4. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops (1894)

All these, and more especially 1 and 4 need to be revised and brought up to date.

5. Bakehouses are controlled by the Factory and Workshop Act.

The Premises controlled are :—

Cowsheds ..	...	13
Dairies and Milkshops ..	...	20
Slaughter-Houses ..	...	7
Bakehouses ...	...	9

There are no registered Common Lodging-Houses or Cellar dwellings. The only offensive trade is that of tripe boiling. There is a common lodging capable of accommodating 30 persons at a charge of 6d. or 1s. per night. This establishment is wholesome and well managed, and the sanitary accommodation adequate.

SCHOOLS.—There are four Public Elementary Schools in the district, viz. :—

1. The Woolbrook School (Boys and Girls) ...	...	214
2. All Saints' Girls and Infants (unprovided) ...	...	211
3. Eastern Town (Boys) ..	..	123
4. Eastern Town (Girls and Infants) ..	...	119
		—
Total ...	...	667
		—

The sanitary condition of the above is satisfactory, and the town water supply is available at all. The additional closet and urinal accommodation, the covered play-shed and the larger cloak-room which I recommended at the Eastern Town (Boys) School (Annual Report for 1911, p. 15) have not yet been provided.

I receive weekly lists of the names and addresses of scholars absent for more than one day, and try to visit the houses of the absentees. This plan has been useful for the detection of early cases of infectious disease, and enables me to give timely advice as to the treatment of contagious disorders such as ringworm and verminous heads. The latter owing to the apathy and ignorance of parents, tend to persist chronically. The domiciliary visits of the County Council's School Nurse are too infrequent to be of any real use in this matter, and I look forward to the day when we shall have a fully-trained District Nurse to supervise the treatment of cases of this kind.

There have been no epidemics of infectious disease in the schools this year. The children as a whole are strong and healthy, but the physique and general appearance of those attending the Council's Woolbrook School is markedly better than that of those at the schools in the town. No doubt the regular walk to and fro, the better air of Woolbrook, and the more modern and hygienic buildings and playgrounds of the Council's School are responsible for this difference.

All the schools were, as usual, disinfected by formalin spray during the Summer vacation.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY. The number of registered Cow-sheds this year is 13, being two less than in 1911. Considerable improvement has been effected in the paving, draining, ventilation and water supply of four of the larger cowsheds; a smaller one still remains to be done. As noted last year [Annual Report, 1911, p. 16] the supply of hot water for scalding milk-pails and churns was on some farms inadequate or absent, and the pails and churns not properly cleansed. This year coppers have been installed at two of the larger cowsheds, and the occupiers have now the means of sterilising their dairy vessels and utensils.

Much has been written of late about the Pure Milk Bill promoted by Mr. John Burns, and in this connection Pure Milk means milk which has been collected from healthy cows and delivered in a cleanly fashion. Few farmers or dairymen are nowadays so unwise as to add water and condensed milk to the milk they sell; they know they would be detected

very soon. But through carelessness and ignorance they do add, or allow to be added to milk, the germs of putrefaction and disease which are in fact more injurious to health than simple adulteration.

Of course there are two sides to this as to every question : real cleanliness of milk is, like maturity of wine—it raises the cost,—and if a standard pure milk is to be put on the market the consumer must pay more, and the producer must do more. In some parts of England, and especially in large towns, much of the so-called special milk for infants and invalids differs only from the ordinary product in that it is bottled and labelled—sometimes only at the consumers door !*

On the one hand therefore the public must be prepared to pay more—a penny or perhaps twopence per gallon—for really pure clean milk, and on the other the dairy farmer must be prepared to demonstrate that, in addition to housing his herd in thoroughly sanitary cowsheds, he avails himself of the tuberculin test and regular veterinary inspection to ensure the healthiness of his herd ; that he provides hot water, soap and towels, and clean smocks or overalls for his milkers *and makes the milkers use them* ; that his cows' udders are kept clean, and their hind quarters and tails thoroughly groomed to remove dried dung and mud ; that his milk pails, churns and dairy vessels are bacteriologically clean ; and that the milk he sends out to consumers is chilled before it leaves the farm.

All this is the mere A.B.C. of clean milk production and has been known and practised for years, but I am bound to say that on all the above points except the first (sanitary cowsheds) the local dairy farmers are apathetic and behind the times.

In December I took and examined samples of milk purchased in the ordinary way from 13 different purveyors. Of these samples three were very good, seven were satisfactory, and three were bad. Of the three last all were deficient in cream, one contained pus, *i.e.*, matter from a diseased udder, and one was badly adulterated with water. I warned the purveyor of the last-mentioned sample, but apparently without effect for he was prosecuted (and, I am glad to say, heavily fined) on a sample subsequently taken by the police.

**The Times* Report on Pure Milk Bill.

My analysis did not of course comprise an examination for germs of disease which can only be carried out in a bacteriological laboratory.

At three farmhouses the following sanitary work was carried out :—

(1.) A water supply was installed from a spring on the hill side ; a W.C. was built in the farmhouse and connected to Council's sewer ; at the same time pure water was laid on to the cowsheds (18 cows), farm-yard and dairy, replacing the old water supply from a surface well which was contaminated.

(2.) An insanitary privy in connection with a farmhouse was reconstructed, and the reception pit removed to a safe distance from the dwelling-house, dairy and cowsheds.

(3.) In another case a hand-flushed W.C. discharged its contents into an open ditch close to the house and farm buildings ; this ditch also received the drainage from the pig-sties, which were in a highly insanitary condition. A flush tank was fitted to the W.C., and the drainage conveyed to a covered pit at a safe distance, the Council's sewers not being available.

OTHER FOODS. No seizure of unsound food has been made during the year. Complaints have reached us as to the hawking of rotten fish and fruit, brought from a distance, in the streets, but I have not seen any food of this kind in such a condition as to warrant a prosecution ; nor have any cases of illness, due to the eating of unsound or diseased food, come to my notice. I am of opinion that foods prepared and exposed for sale are, for the most part, sound and wholesome. In one small shop meat and "lights" of an inferior kind are sold to poor persons ; this establishment being dirty and insanitary and structurally unsuitable has had the special attention of the Sanitary Inspector and has been considerably improved.

BAKE-HOUSES. Of the nine bake-houses three are of modern construction and equipment, and may be classified as first-rate. All save one were found to be clean and well conducted. This one was found to be generally dirty, and the closet used by the bakers was insanitary. In this establishment the defects have been remedied. In two other bake-houses sanitary defects (in no way due to neglect on the part of the tenants) were discovered and put right.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. I have not much to add to the remarks made in my Annual Report for 1911 (pp. 18 and 19) under this heading. Five of the seven are unsuitably situated in the most thickly populated part of the town and are always liable to be, and often are, a cause of nuisance and offence. They should be abolished and replaced by a Public Slaughter-house. Adequate inspection of private slaughter-houses, with different hours of killing, and of the meat prepared for sale therein is impossible. Nor can one be sure that due humanity is exercised. The Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. who visited some of the slaughter-houses with me this year was strongly of opinion that most of our slaughter-houses should be closed on account of their position, and general unsuitableness. There have been complaints of nuisance caused by killing pigs in an open yard of a slaughter-house in full view of the neighbour's children; of the cries of animals awaiting, or at the time of slaughter, and of the stench from offal and manure. The butchers work at a disadvantage in their present premises, and some of them admit it; it is high time that this necessary but nasty business was concentrated on a spot well outside the town.

During the year defects in paving and draining have been put right in two slaughter-houses, and in one of them the drains, which were in a highly insanitary condition were re-modelled throughout, and the rough tarred walls, which merely conceal splashings of blood and filth, were rendered in cement and made smooth and easy to wash down.

The disgusting and dangerous practice of inflating calves' skins by blowing air under them with the mouth to facilitate skinning operations is discontinued, for all the butchers now possess mechanical inflators, and (I hope) use them.

HOUSING. The number of houses available for working men is insufficient, and many of the houses occupied by this class are unsuitable and in bad repair. In the past 13 years the number of "Ten Pound Houses" has declined from 580 to 367, the reason being that the great demand has sent up the rents. In the same period 551 houses of a rateable value of over £8 have been built. Many of these are good-sized houses whose occupants employ men for whom houses within a reasonable distance are needed. The population has increased by 1528 in

the 13 years, and, assuming that working men and their families constitute half of the increase, it is obvious that 750 persons are now either being housed at rents they cannot afford, or are paying rents in excess of what their houses are worth. Actually both these conditions prevail and tend to overcrowding.

In 1912 the following houses have been built :—

Of over £8 rateable value	...	19
Of £8 and under rateable value	...	14
Total	...	33

The number and rateable values of the houses in the district are :—

Over £8 rateable value	...	920
£8 and under rateable value	...	381
Total	...	1301

On March 25th, 1912, I reported to the Council and to the Local Government Board that thirty houses in the district were unfit for human habitation and ought to be closed pending improvement (where possible) or demolition, and that as many more were deficient as to surrounding air space, sanitary accommodation, food stores, wash-houses and drying grounds. Also that there was overcrowding, both of houses on space and of persons per house.

Now, a year later, I see no reason to modify that statement, and particulars in support of it will be found in the table below.

OVERCROWDING. Owners of small property deny that there is much overcrowding, and tenants do their best to conceal it for fear of any action being taken against them under the Public Health Acts. Some specific instances of overcrowding are given in the subjoined table :—

No.	Locality.	Number of Persons.		Bed-rooms.	Remarks and Action.
		Adults.	Chil-dren.		
1	Eastern Town	2	4	2	All sleeping in one room "for warmth."
2	Eastern Town	2	6	2	3 boys in one room 800 cubic feet. Parents and 3 female children in other room 1000 cubic feet.
3	Eastern Town	2	2	1	Cubic capacity 800 feet. One adult had consumption. Removed to sleep in living-room, and died there.
4	Mill Street	2	3	2	All slept in one room owing to other being unfit for habitation. Death of infant from over-lying.
5	Russell Street	2	5	2	
6	Bedford Square	5	0	2	Three adults in room 800 cubic feet, window 2 x 2 feet.
7	Mill Street	2	4	2	
8	Temple Street	7	0	3	Female occupied one room by herself, 4 in one bedroom, 2 in another; one had consumption and died of it.

These instances do not by any means exhaust the list, but are average cases met with in the course of routine work.

Of the fourteen houses of under £8 rateable value referred to above, only twelve have been actually built during 1912. These houses have been run up as quickly as possible to meet the keen demand, and are of no great merit or specially suited to the requirements of the working man and in no case is the rent less than 5s. per week. The other two are adapted from the old Police Station and are soundly built and have good and modern sanitation, but they are situate in a densely populated area and have no gardens.

SUPERVISION OVER THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOUSES. This does not rest with the Sanitary Department.

I wish to record my strong disapproval of the following practices:—

(1.) The use of a sand and tar damp-proof course instead of slates, asphalte, or other really durable and impervious material.

(2.) The omission to cover the site of new houses with concrete.

(3.) The placing of soil pipes inside houses or in cavity walls instead of outside where they ought to be.

The first two have nothing to recommend them except that they save a little money. The last two are downright violations of the building bye-laws, Nos. 9 and 66.

BUILDING OF NEW STABLES. In three places stables have been built or old buildings adapted to be used as stables in close proximity to dwelling-houses. In two cases nuisance has arisen. In one case the new stable cuts off light and air from a row of cottages already badly deficient in that respect, and is a source of annoyance to the tenants from the noise, smell and breeding of flies which which inevitably occur in stables.

There appears to be no bye-law to regulate the site and amount of open space around a new stable. Such a bye-law is badly needed, and should be even more stringent than those relating to new domestic buildings.

The new Model Bye-laws, Series iv. (c.) Clause 30 (2) with respect to new stables does something towards preventing this evil, and ought to be adopted.

A brief resumé of what has been done under the Housing Acts will not be out of place here.

Date.	Action.
Nov. 15, 1911	Report by M.O.H. to the Council on the unsatisfactory state of working men's dwellings in Sidmouth and the urgent need for building more and better ones. Special Committee appointed to investigate and report.
March 25, 1912	Special Report by M.O.H. on the need for working men's dwellings and the advantages of adopting the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Date.	Action.
March 29, 1912	S.U.D.C. resolve to buy land and erect workmen's dwellings thereon.
April 26, 1912	Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, adopted, and Mr. Whitford appointed Inspector under the Housing(Inspection of District)Regulations, 1910.
May 5, 1912	Assistant Clerk and M.O.H. attend at Local Government Board, Whitehall, to get information about working of H. and T.P. Act, 1909.
May 9, 1912	Special meeting of S.U.D.C. to consider working of H. and T.P. Act, 1909. Area of 10 acres (Lyme Park and Salter's Meadows) suggested by M.O.H. to be scheduled. Sub-Committee appointed to consider scheme.
June 28, 1912	Sub-Committee submits tracing of area proposed to be scheduled. Area about 180 acres, of which 60 acres was in the Honiton Rural District. No decision arrived at.
July 22, 1912	Joint meeting of Housing Committees of the S.U.D.C. and Honiton R.D.C. at Sidmouth. Resolved : "That the area proposed to be scheduled by S.U.D.C. be cut down so as not to include any land in the area of the Honiton R.D.C." Assistant Clerk and M.O.H. protested against this on the ground that the area thus excluded was socially and geographically a part of Sidmouth, and its development should be controlled by the S.U.D.C. Their objection was overruled.
July 26, 1912	Action of Housing Committee at above meeting reported to the S.U.D.C. and approved.
Aug. 30, 1912	Further Report by M.O.H. on houses inspected under Housing Regulations, 1910.
Oct. 7, 1912	Report by M.O.H. to S.U.D.C. on probable cost of a scheme under the H. and T.P. Act, 1909, and drawing attention to the disfigurement of Lyme Park Meadow by the erection of small terrace-houses and cutting down fine trees. Two expensive 36-foot roads close to and parallel to each other, leading to nowhere. Matter adjourned for a month.
Nov. 26-7, 1912	Housing and Town Planning Conference at Exeter. Chairman and M.O.H. attend as delegates of S.U.D.C.
Nov. 29, 1912	S.U.D.C. resolve to obtain an up-to-date map of the District as the first step towards scheduling an area under the H. and T.P. Act, 1909. Workmen's Dwellings Sub-Committee to inspect sites suitable for the same.

Date.	Action.
Dec. 4, 1912	Sub-Committee inspect two possible sites for Working Class Dwellings at Woolbrook.
Dec. 6, 1912	Special meeting of the G.P.C. of the S.U.D.C. to consider proposal to apply to L.G.B. for permission to prepare a Town Planning scheme for Sidmouth, and to decide on area to be scheduled under such scheme.
Dec. 23, 1912	G.P.C. recommend S.U.D.C. that permission to prepare a scheme be sought from the L.G.B., and that the whole of the Urban District be scheduled as the area of such scheme. After discussion the matter was referred back to the G.P.C.

The above synopsis shows that, although no definite decision was arrived at in 1912, much time and thought was given by the Council and its officers to the subjects of Town Planning and Housing. Both matters are now (October, 1913) well under way and likely to arrive at a practical issue.

Tabular Statement under Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 :—

1.	Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909	...	...	93.
2.	Number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...		30.
3.	Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders ...	...	Special Report March 30, 1912. 30 houses reported unfit.	
4.	Number of closing orders made	...	0.	
5.	The number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders ...	...	Certain defects were remedied in 36 instances.	
6.	The number of dwelling-houses which, after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation		0.	

General character of defects found to exist :—

Nature of Defect Observed.	No.	Action Taken.
Back to Back Houses	16	
Deficient surrounding light and air ...	20	
Defective roofs, dampness of walls and ceilings, defective eaves guttering and down spouting ...	22	Repairs carried out where practicable.
Dirty and verminous houses ...	9	All cleansed.
Well under floor of dwelling-house ...	1	Filled up.
Dangerous staircases	4	Repaired.
Unpaved yards	26	Paved.
Houses with insufficient or defective closet accommodation	32	Two W.C.'s built. Sanitary defects made good where practicable.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES. At the end of the year there were 16 Factories and 43 Workshops and Workplaces on the Register. These have been inspected and were, generally speaking, found to be in a satisfactory state and well conducted. Special attention was paid to the sanitary condition of the workshops and workplaces, and certain defects tabulated below were found and remedied on request by the owners or occupiers of the premises.

Home Office Table No. 2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :—

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*		
Want of Cleanliness	2	2
Want of Drainage of Floors	3	3
Other Nuisances	3	3
Sanitary Accommodation		
Insufficient	2	2
Unsuitable or defective...	5	5
Not separate for sexes	1	1
Total	16	16

Employers of labour in the district are rather slow about sending their hands under 16 years of age to the Certifying Surgeon to be examined for certificates of fitness to work. For their benefit I will state that the law on this point is that "No Person under 16 may be employed in a factory or in a workshop (including laundries, bakehouses and tailor's and milliner's shops) *for more than seven days*, unless the occupier has obtained a certificate of fitness from the Certifying Surgeon for the district in which the factory or workshop is situated."

The employer *and the parents* of a person employed in contravention of the above requirements are liable to a fine.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

STAFF. Medical Officer of Health (part time), Sanitary Inspector (whole time) and his assistant

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshops Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

(part time). The extent and nature of their work is sufficiently recorded under the various headings of this report.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. None in district. Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Exeter City Hospital at Whipton when beds are available. Exeter City Council has power to refuse cases from Sidmouth.

ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT (ADOPTIVE). Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909. No scheme yet formulated. See section on HOUSING, pp. 18—24 Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, parts 1 and 3. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Sections 34—42 and 44—51.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK. Four samples of water have been analysed during the year. Two of the samples proved good, and two bad. As a result, two wells were closed for drinking purposes. One well was steyned and coped after being pumped dry and cleansed.

In seven instances material was sent to the County Health Department for bacteriological diagnosis ; in five of these germs of disease were found.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Excluding pulmonary tuberculosis, there were nine cases of notifiable disease in the district, viz. —

Erysipelas	...	...	6
Scarlet Fever	...	...	3

Of the six cases of Erysipelas two were fatal. All occurred between September 9th and November 13th. I was unable to trace any connection between the cases, except that in two of them the patients were relatives, living however in different houses.

Of the cases of Scarlet Fever two were visitors who arrived during the incubation period of the disease ; the other occurred in Landpart, and no obvious source of infection could be discovered.

One case was sent to Whipton Sanatorium. One, which occurred on Oct. 15th when the Sanatorium was full, was isolated and nursed in an empty house in Landpart ; and the third case, which was that of a visitor at an hotel, was also removed to the same house. Two trained nurses were put in charge, and every precaution taken to prevent the spread of infection. The patients recovered, and were in due

course discharged to their homes, and no fresh cases arose.

In this we were very fortunate, and I cannot too strongly emphasise the risk we run through lack of hospital accommodation for infectious cases. When Whipton Sanatorium is full, as it may be at any time, we have absolutely nowhere to send our cases.

I hold that Sidmouth should have: (1) A small Sanatorium to receive early or suspicious cases without delay, and thus check an epidemic as we checked it in November; and to house comfortably any of our visitors who fall sick here. They would I know be glad to pay handsomely for comfortable isolation. (2) Adequate accommodation, *always* available in case of a big epidemic, in an Isolation Hospital not more than six miles from the town.

This may be a counsel of perfection, but perfection is what Sidmouth must have in its arrangements for dealing with infectious diseases if the reputation and prosperity of the town are to be assured.

We have had practically no scarlet fever in the district for four years, and there are now some hundreds of school children who are susceptible to the disease. Therefore, if an epidemic began it might, failing adequate means of isolation, be a very heavy one, and entail a serious loss of money and reputation to the town.

We have a first-rate "Equifex" steam disinfecter, and a good horse ambulance for removing infectious cases.

The latter is a most valuable acquisition, and will enable us to move infectious cases at once, instead of having to wait for hours for the ambulance from Exeter as in former years.

The Disinfecter has been in frequent use during the year, and 75 lots of bedding and clothing have passed through it.

The only weak point in our line of defence against infectious disease is lack of hospital accommodation, and I would strongly urge the Council to take steps to secure the same without delay.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE
Showing Cases of Consumption notified in Sidmouth Urban District
in 1912.

No. in Register.	Age.	Sex.	Resident or Visitor.	Housing Condi-tions.	Result and Remarks To December 31st, 1912
1	32	F	Resident	Fair	Dead.
2	35	M	Resident	Good	Disease quiescent.
3	30	M	Resident	Bad	Worse.
4	38	M	Resident	Fair	Sanatorium, now at work again.
5	32	M	Resident	Good	Left the district.
6	30	F	Resident	Good	Improving.
7	56	M	Visitor	Good	Chronic case. Left improved.
8	39	F	Resident	Good	Dead.
9	45	M	Resident	Bad	Dead. [refused.
10	37	F	Resident	Bad	Dead. Sanatorium treatment
11	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	F	Resident	Bad	Dead. (Acute tuberculosis).
12	36	M	Resident	Bad	Better after San'tor'm tr'tm'nt. Dead before Sanatorium treat-
13	35	M	Resident	Bad	ment was available.
14	24	M	Resident	Fair	Much improved and at work.
15	18	F	Resident	Fair	Cured. Open air and tuberculin.
16	35	M	Resident	Good	Improved.
17	51	M	Resident	Bad	Worse.
18	40	F	Resident	Bad	Worse. Treatment refused.
19	46	M	Resident	Bad	Dead.
20	60	M	Resident	Good	In statu quo.
21	38	F	Resident	Good	Much worse.
22	43	F	Visitor	Good	Chronic case. Left improved.
23	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	F	Resident	Bad	Acute tuberculosis.
24	46	F	Resident	Good	Chronic case quiescent.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1911 came into force on Jan. 1st, 1912, and 24 notifications were made during the year ; as set out in the table above, 22 of the persons notified were residents, and 2 were visitors. I have compared the figures for Sidmouth Urban District with those for the whole county of Devon, and for England and Wales. The comparison works out as follows :—

Area.	Notifications of Consumption per 1000 of Population.	Deaths from Consumption per 1000 of Population.
England and Wales	3·06	Not available
Administrative County of Devon...	2·6	1·03
Sidmouth U.D., including Visitors	4·36	1·2
Sidmouth U.D., excluding Visitors	3·84	1·2

It appears, therefore, that consumption is comparatively more prevalent in Sidmouth than it is in the County as a whole, or in the whole of England and Wales.

As I said last year, statistics based on the returns of small communities are apt to be fallacious, but after making allowance for this, there can be no doubt that consumption is unduly and deplorably common in the district.

What is the cause? Probably many factors are at work, but from an impartial study of the table above one is bound to admit that housing has a great deal to do with it. Five of the seven fatal cases occurred in bad houses; three of those who grew steadily worse also lived under bad housing conditions. Whereas, those who lived in healthy houses, or were able to go away, improved. There is only one cure to record.

Ignorance of the elementary rules of health also renders people liable to the disease. One night, very late, I went out with a lantern and counted 145 bedroom windows. Of these, only 10 were opened at all, and most of them only an inch or two! The night was mild, and the houses were small.

Again, the prevalent practice of drinking beer or other alcoholic liquors before meals is most pernicious and likely to wreck the digestion, which is the first line of defence against consumption.

The care of the mouth and teeth is another matter much neglected. Not one in ten of the young people I examine under the Factory Act has ever used a tooth brush!

Lastly, the lack of *means* and *power* to isolate advanced cases is a frequent cause of infection. There is nowhere to send these unfortunate persons, except to the Workhouse Infirmaries, and even there they are not welcome. The Insurance Act Sanatoria are not for them, so they drag on a miserable existence, infecting their families at home and the public in the streets.

The remedy will be for the Local Authorities to improve housing conditions; for the State to provide Sanatoria and scientific treatment for all recoverable cases, and comfortable but compulsory isolation for advanced and hopeless cases which are a danger to the community.

The following measures were taken to control the disease and to prevent the spread of infection :—

One hundred and forty-six visits were paid to persons notified as suffering from consumption, and advice was given as to the best means to restore their own health and to avoid infecting others. Printed leaflets of instructions were given to the patient and his family; in cases of poverty the Council, acting under the special powers granted to them by Article IX. of the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911, ordered me to furnish the patient with a sputum cup or flask, disinfectants, and any special article of food or medicine I considered necessary. After the death or removal of a patient the room or rooms occupied by him were disinfected, and in most cases the walls were stripped and lime-washed and the ceilings white-washed. The floors were scrubbed with disinfectants. All bedding and clothing used by the patient was disinfected by steam or destroyed. Careful search was made for early and unrecognized cases in association with notified cases. In two instances children and young people were sent away from the infected dwelling. One patient was sent to a Sanatorium by the Guardians, and one underwent open-air treatment combined with Tuberculin privately. Both these cases improved, and one was cured. One patient refused Sanatorium treatment after a bed had been engaged. Among the poor, the prejudice against sanatoria is strong, and of course it is most difficult to induce the father or mother of a working class family to enter a Sanatorium, while there is still the prospect of a cure. In these matters and on many points of personal hygiene all classes have much to learn before they can avail themselves of the best methods of avoiding and resisting the disease. Probably ninety out of every hundred people are infected with the germ of consumption at some time or other in their lives; but by keeping fit the infection is resisted and overcome, and, even when serious symptoms have occurred, prompt and scientific treatment can often effect a cure.

I think there is less spitting in the streets and in public places than there used to be. All notified consumptives have been repeatedly warned of the danger of this practice, and enamelled iron notices relating to it have been put up in the shelters on the Esplanade and elsewhere.

INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

On looking at L.G.B. Table No. III., it will be seen that there were seven deaths from cancer. This gives a death-rate of 1·2 per 1000—the same as last year. Considering the large number of old people in the district this rate, though higher than that for the county, need not cause any alarm. Until the cause is definitely known it will be wise to treat cancer as a communicable disease. When notified, I am always ready to carry out disinfection of rooms, clothes and bedding after a cancer case.

Ten deaths were caused by organic heart disease. The climate probably attracts sufferers of this class, and the preponderance of old people and the prevalence of laborious occupations tend to swell the number of deaths under this heading.

Of the four violent deaths, three were caused by falling down dangerous staircases; one by over-lying in a house where there was also overcrowding.

It is most satisfactory that there was no death from diarrhoea, enteritis, or any of the acute specific fevers, except erysipelas. This fact, however, does not warrant any delay in carrying out work which is much needed in the matters of housing and sanitation.

INFANT MORTALITY. Five children under one year old died in the year. The infant death-rate is therefore 68 per 1000 live births, or 27 per 1000 less than for England and Wales (95).

Two deaths were due to "convulsions," two to premature birth, and one to violence.

The old unwholesome feeding bottle with a long tube is still to be found in use. The Notification of Births Act, 1907, is not in force here.

There is one registered midwife, but her supervision under the Midwives Act, 1902, is no longer a part of the Medical Officer's duties.

Fifty-six out of 73 infants born in the district were successfully vaccinated. This is 76 per cent. Last year 80 per cent. were vaccinated. This further decline of 4 per cent is much to be regretted.

VITAL STATISTICS. Table I. shows :—

- (1) An estimated increase of 159 in the population since last year.

(2) That the birth-rate, which has been falling steadily for the past five years, has still further declined to 12·7, and is 11·1 less than that of England and Wales (23·8).

(3) That the death-rate has also fallen and is lower than any recorded in the past five years. The corrected death-rate, 10·2, is 3·1 lower than that of England and Wales (13·3).

The comparative mortality figure for the district is 775, as against the standard of 1000 for England and Wales.

The low and constantly falling birth-rate is not a satisfactory feature, for if it continues over a number of years the death-rate is bound to rise owing to the increased proportion of old people to the total population.

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate the Council and the Ratepayers on the progress in Public Health matters which has been made in 1912. Briefly summarised this progress is :—

(1) The adoption of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and the accomplishment of much of the preliminary work which must be got through before a scheme is formulated.

(2) The investigation of Housing conditions in the district and the exact knowledge thus gained of the needs of the district in this respect.

(3) The investigation of the flooding nuisance, and the determination to extend the storm-water sewerage system.

(4) Extensive improvements in the sanitation of domestic buildings.

(5) The active control of consumption under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1911.

(6) The purchase of a new sanitary dust-cart, and other improvements in scavenging.

(7) The purchase of an ambulance for the removal of infectious cases.

(8) Improvements in the water supply, paving, drainage and ventilation of certain cowsheds.

In the near future the following matters should have the serious consideration of the Council :—

(1) A definite scheme under the Housing and Town Planning Act for the proper development of

the district. The present time is a most critical and dangerous one for Sidmouth. Several large properties and building sites in the choicest parts of the town are for sale, and unless the Council obtains control *by getting permission to prepare a scheme*, there will be further disfigurement of the town and district by uncontrolled and indiscriminate building.

It is not difficult to obtain such permission from the Local Government Board, and there must be no delay if the situation is to be saved.

- (2) Dwellings for the working classes.
- (3) Hospital accommodation for infectious cases.
- (4) An improved method of disposal of household refuse, *i.e.*, a destructor.
- (5) Amendment of the Building Bye-laws, and of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations ; and of the Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances.
- (6) Public Lavatories for the convenience of visitors. This matter has been hanging fire for years owing to prudish opposition and ideas of false modesty. The fact is that the lavatories are badly wanted, and would be extensively used.

W. H. PEILE, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

*Sidmouth,
October, 1913.*

APPENDIX I.

CLIMATE OF SIDMOUTH, 1912.

Hours of bright Sunshine	...	...	1561 hrs. 55 mins.
Highest Temperature in the air, July 15th	...	...	83·7
Lowest Temperature, Feb. 3rd	...	...	19·4
Highest in the Sun, July 16th	...	...	133 (Black Bulb Thermometer in Vacuo)
Mean of daily Maxima	...	...	56·
Mean of daily Minima	...	...	44·7
Mean of the year	...	...	50·4
Mean, 9 a.m.	...	...	51·2
Rain received in a 5-in. gauge 1 foot above the ground	41·23 inches		
The heaviest fall in one day, Aug. 3rd	...	...	1·1
Number of days on which Rain fell	...	...	219
Mean Humidity of the air at 9 a.m.	...	...	84·5

With one exception, 1872, when the rainfall was 42·21, this has been the wettest year we have had since our register began in 1870. The only other year over 40 inches, was 1882, 41·10. This year we had 10·70 inches above the average of the last 20 years. The only fine and dry months were April, 19, and September, 1·29. There was only 1·61 in November, but it spread over 15 days. August was the worst of all, having only 2 days without rain, and the amount measured was 6·35.

The sunshine was the lowest recorded with the exception of 1902, and was $181\frac{1}{2}$ hours below the average. The warmest days were 83·7 and 82·8 in July, including these there were only six over 70 in the whole year, yet the mean temperature was 0·2 above the average.

APPENDIX II.

**Analysis of Sidmouth Water Company's
Supplies 1912.**

Stated as parts per 100000.

Total Solids	...	...	...	9.6
Loss of Solids on Ignition	...	...	...	1.2
Chlorides	...	...	...	2.5
Nitrites	...	...	...	0
Nitrates	...	...	...	.24
Phosphates	...	...	...	0
Total Hardness	...	...	...	3.1
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	1.6
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	1.5
Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	.0004
Organic Ammonia	...	...	...	.0048
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	...	...	...	.06
Oxygen absorbed immediately	...	...	...	0.

REMARKS.—“This is a soft spring water which is characteristic of the Sidmouth Urban Supply. It is free from contamination with any pollutive matters or undesirable substance, and the natural purity is perfectly satisfactory.”

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1912 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimat'd to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.†			NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett. Number. †	Rate.	Number. †	Rate.	Number. †	Rate.	Number. †	Rate.	Number. †	Rate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1907	4750	85	17.9	82	17.3				4	47.1	81	17.	
1908	5000	86	17.2	57	11.4				4	46.5	56	11.2	
1909	5030	84	16.6	62	12.3				4	47.6	61	12.1	
1910	5100	74	14.5	80	15.6				7	95.	66	12.9	
1911	5569	76	14.	58	10.4				5	64.	57	10.2	
1912	5728	71	73	12.7	69	10.2			7	7	5	68.	
												69	10.2

At Census, 1911—Total Population at all ages, 5,612.*

Number of Inhabited houses, 1268.

Average number of persons per house, 4.4.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1606.

* Including 78 Crew of H.M.S. Speedwell.

Estimated Population June 30, 1912—5728.

Number of Inhabited Houses, December 31, 1912—1301.

Average number of persons per house—4.4.

Note.—The death-rate (10·2) is the corrected death-rate, or the rate which would have been recorded had the age and sex constitution of the population of Sidmouth been identical with that of England and Wales in 1901. The actual or crude death-rate for the district is 12.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1912.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER "Residents" OR "Non- Residents" IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.						Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 45 yrs.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	11
All causes { Certified	69						
Uncertified	0						
Influenza	...	1					1
Erysipelas	...	2					1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	7					2
Cancer, malignant disease	...	7					1
Rheumatic Fever	...	1					5
Organic Heart Disease	...	10					1
Bronchitis	...	3					7
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	2					1
Other diseases of respiratory organs	...	2					1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	0					1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1					1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	2					1
Congenital Deformity and Malformation, including Premature Birth	...	2	2				3
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	4	1				10
Other Defined Diseases	...	16	2				7
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	9					1
Totals	...	69	5				38
							1





